

The present application represents the U.S. National Phase of P.C.T. Application No. PCT/AU99/01144, filed December 22, 1999, and claiming foreign priority on the basis of a corresponding Australian patent application, filed December 22, 1998.

Claims 1-23 are now pending in the above-identified patent application, as presented before the International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA/AU) on November 13, 2000, and as amended by the instant Preliminary Amendment. Claim 1 and 16 are presented in independent form.

By the present amendment, dependent Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-15, 20 and 21 have been amended in order to remove the multiple dependencies therefrom. Claims 22 and 23 have been added in order to recite alternative embodiments originally within the scope of Claims 11 and 13, respectively. Various amendments have also been entered into the claims for the purpose of improved form.

An Abstract on a separate sheet of paper, as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b), is enclosed.

A "marked-up" version of the claim amendments being entered is attached to this Preliminary Amendment.

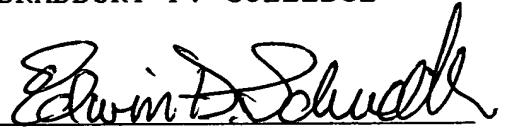
The application is now in condition for a full examination on the merits.

Accordingly, an early examination on the merits and allowance are, therefore, respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BRADBURY F. COLLEDGE

By



Edwin D. Schindler
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 31,459

Five Hirsch Avenue
P. O. Box 966
Coram, New York 11727-0966

(631)474-5373

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A floor framing system includes a plurality of elongate load bearing framework members, which are supported by the building or foundations thereof, and which support flooring material, or the like. The elongate load bearing framework members have, at least, two elongate structural members and at least one structural web member extending between the elongate structural members. The elongate structural members have at least one web element which is substantially upright and at least one flange element which is perpendicular to the web element. The web structural member has at least one web element which is substantially upright and at least one flange element which is perpendicular to the web element, so that the, at least, one web element of the web elements mate with the, at least, one web element of the elongate structural members such that a connection device can be applied at the mating locations.

VERSION OF AMENDMENTS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
(Dated June 21, 2001)

IN THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite the following claims, as filed before the IPEA/AU on November 13, 2000, during Chapter II of the P.C.T. international phase, to now read as follows:

4. (Amended) The floor framing system as claimed in [claims 1 to 3,] claim 1, wherein said elongate structural web members resemble an inverted top-hat section with two said flange elements and two said web elements with a third web element perpendicular to, and adjoining, the two said web elements.

5. (Amended) The floor framing system as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 3,] claim 1, wherein said elongate structural web members resemble a box section with a slit in one side with two said flange elements being separated by the slit, two said web elements with a third web element perpendicular to, and adjoining, the two said web elements.

7. (Amended) The floor framing system as claimed in [any one of claims 4 to 6,] claim 4, wherein the ends of the web elements of the elongate web members are notched such that the flange elements of the web members enclose the web elements of the elongate structural members.

8. (Amended) The floor framing system as claimed in

MARKED-UP AMENDMENTS-1

[any one of claims 4 to 7,] claim 4, wherein at least one of said elongate structural web members is bent into a vee profile.

10. (Amended) The floor framing system as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, wherein longitudinal central axes of the elongate structural members and at least one of said structural web [member(s)] members are substantially aligned.

11. (Amended) The floor framing system as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, wherein the elongate structural web members are [either] perpendicular to [or diagonal to] said elongate structural members.

12. (Amended) The floor framing system as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, wherein the elongate structural members are substantially parallel.

13. (Amended) The floor framing system as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, wherein the elongate structural members are substantially in the same plane and form a triangular [or trapezoidal] framework [geometries.] geometry.

14. (Amended) The floor framing system as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, wherein the flanges of the elongate structural members are extended and over bent flange stiffening elements.

15. (Amended) The floor framing system as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, wherein the floor system is stiffened by at least one stiffening member oriented substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axes of the elongate structural members.

20. (Amended) The floor framing system as claimed in [any one of claims 17 to 19,] claim 17, wherein the ends of the web elements of the elongate web members are notched such that the flange elements of the web members mate with the web elements of the elongate structural members.

21. (Amended) The floor framing system as claimed in [any one of claims 17 to 20,] claim 17, wherein at least one of said elongate structural web members is bent into a vee profile.

Please add the following claims:

--22. The floor framing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elongate structural web members are diagonal to said elongate structural members.

23. The floor framing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elongate structural members are substantially in the same plane and form a trapezoidal framework geometry.--